

recognizing Officer Brandon Murphy for the service he has provided to Michigan's Fifth Congressional District and the Bay City community.

Brandon Murphy is a recipient of the Police Officers Association of Michigan's (POAM) Police Officer of the Year Award. This honor was awarded following an encounter where Officer Murphy was injured by gunfire while successfully managing to apprehend a suspect and stop a violent crime spree. Officer Murphy's personal dedication to public safety at the cost of his own safety deserves the utmost honor, and a Police Officer of the Year Award is a worthy and deserving recognition for such an exemplary officer.

It is my honor to represent such brave and honorable members of our community, and Officer Brandon Murphy is a shining example. The true measure of an exemplary public safety officer was exhibited by Officer Murphy when he sacrificed his own wellbeing in order to prevent the further victimization of the community he serves.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work done by Officer Brandon Murphy and thank him for the service he has provided to our community.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN AND SUSAN BURKE

#### HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 18, 2016*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John and Susan Burke who will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 6, 2016.

John and Susan were married at Saint Gregory's Church in Dorchester, MA. on August 6, 1966. Susan attended St. Gregory's High School and graduated from Boston State Teachers College. John grew up in South Boston, attended Boston Technical High School, graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and served our country in the U.S. Army for three years. Upon his return home, John worked for the Boston Edison Company and was former Congressman Joe Moakley's Administrative Assistant.

John and Susan are proud parents of their two daughters, Courtney Murray and Patricia Lombardozi and are blessed with five grandsons; Michael, Patrick and John Murray and Declan and Luke Lombardozi as well their two son-in-laws, Tim Murray and Santiago Lombardozi.

Mr. Speaker, I have known John and his brothers, Gerry, Kevin, Tim, Patrick and Brian for nearly four decades, they are a proud South Boston family. It is truly an honor and a pleasure to be able to share in this joyous occasion with a great couple and a wonderful family. I know that John and Susan are looking forward to celebrating their 50 years of marriage next month with their friends and family and I want to again congratulate them both on this wondrous occasion.

#### RECOGNIZING JIM SPARKS

#### HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 18, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jim Sparks, a high school teacher in Georgia's First Congressional District for 26 years.

In 1994, while in his late 30s, Mr. Sparks left a corporate position in the transportation industry to pursue a career in education.

At first, when he was hired by the Camden County school system, little did he expect that he would spend 26 years teaching and change a countless number of students' lives.

During his tenure, he has mainly taught high school U.S. history, but as Mr. Sparks says, his job was not to teach a particular class, it was to teach students.

Since Mr. Sparks has been at Camden County High School it has more than quadrupled in the number of students.

Mr. Sparks used his previous life experiences as a soldier in Vietnam and a corporate officer in the transportation industry to bring a unique dynamic to the classroom.

This school year was his last, as Mr. Sparks is retired at the end of the year.

His dedication to develop young minds is something that should inspire us all and I am thankful for his service to the youth of the First Congressional District of Georgia.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CLAUDE MILLER

#### HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 18, 2016*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Claude Miller for his life of service, and artistic contributions to the State of Michigan and to my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

On January 16, 2016, at the age of 74 years old Claude Miller died, leaving behind his wife and children. Throughout his long life, Claude was a testament to the community champions that form the foundations of our communities. Following an honorable discharge from service in the United States Air Force, Claude eventually settled in Flint, Michigan. There he dedicated his life to service as an advocate for the city he loved. A tireless volunteer, Claude was the very embodiment of the 'Strong, Proud' spirit of Flint.

Claude had a passion for art, spending much of his remaining free time drawing, painting and taking classes at Mott Community College. There he built a reputation for his artistic abilities and passion for his craft. Following his death, the college hosted an exhibition of his art titled, "Faces, Places, and Spaces." One piece depicting President Barack Obama was featured among that collection. That piece has made the long journey to Washington, D.C. where it has been proudly displayed in my office for the last week, prior to being committed to the White House and the President.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the life of Claude Miller for his commitment to our community,

and for his artistic contributions. His life reminds us that art and service can become the cornerstones of a community and a life well lived.

#### VICTIMS IN CHINA, CUBA, MALAYSIA ILL-SERVED BY TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 18, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 launched a bold comprehensive public-private sector strategy that included sheltering, political asylum, and other protections for the victims; long jail sentences and asset confiscation for the traffickers; a myriad of preventative initiatives and tough sanctions for governments that failed to meet minimum standards prescribed in the TVPA.

As the prime sponsor of that law, which also created the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report and tier rankings, I remain deeply disappointed and concerned that both last year's TIP Report and the current one gave passing grades to several nations with horrific records of government complicity in human trafficking. Falsifying a country's human trafficking record not only undermines the credibility of the report but was especially dehumanizing to the victims who suffer rape, cruelty and horrifying exploitation.

The politically contrived passing grades for more than a dozen failing governments was exposed by a series of investigative reports by Reuters, which found that the professionals at the State Department's TIP office made one set of recommendations—only to be overruled at a higher level for political reasons.

A hearing I held last week looked closely at the newly released Trafficking in Persons Report, which assesses and ranks 188 countries each year on their records of prosecuting traffickers, protecting victims, and preventing human trafficking.

Sadly, this year's TIP Report has again failed many victims. Some of the rankings comport with the records of certain countries. Burma and Uzbekistan, for example, are designated Tier 3—as they should be. But other nations including trading partners Malaysia and China are given a free pass despite their horrific records of government complicity in human trafficking. Cuba, a dictatorship highly favored by this administration, is again falsely touted with a passing grade.

China was also allowed to keep its Tier 2 Watch List ranking, despite the fact that the reason for their upgrade two years ago was found to be a fraud.

Alexandra Harney, Jason Szep, and Matt Spetalnick of Reuters authored an expose on China's politicized ranking, finding that, "Two years after China announced it was ending the 're-education through labor' system, extrajudicial networks of detention facilities featuring torture and forced labor thrive in its place." China had deceived the U.S. in 2014, and when that became apparent last year—we let them keep their ill-gotten upgrade in 2015, and again in 2016. I chair the Congressional-Executive Commission on China and based on both sex and labor trafficking, China deserves a Tier 3 ranking—egregious violator—